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Number of Youth and Young Adults

How many youth and young adults live in King County?

In 1999, youth made up 11% of the total population of King County, while young adults comprised 8% of the total population. There were approximately 184,000 youth age 10-17 years and 138,000 young adults age 18-24 years. In Seattle, the numbers of youth and young adults were nearly equal, totalling 45,000 and 46,000 respectively. The numbers in King County outside Seattle were approximately 140,000 and 91,000, respectively.

Number of Youth Age 10-17 and Young Adults Age 18-24 Living in King County, 1999

Age Group	King County	King County Outside Seattle	Seattle
10 to 17	184,028	138,777	45,251
18 to 24	137,503	91,220	46,283
Total 10 to 24	321,531	229,997	91,534
Total Population	1,697,677	1,154,856	542,821

Source: Department of Social and Health Services, Washington State Adjusted Population Estimates, April, 1999.

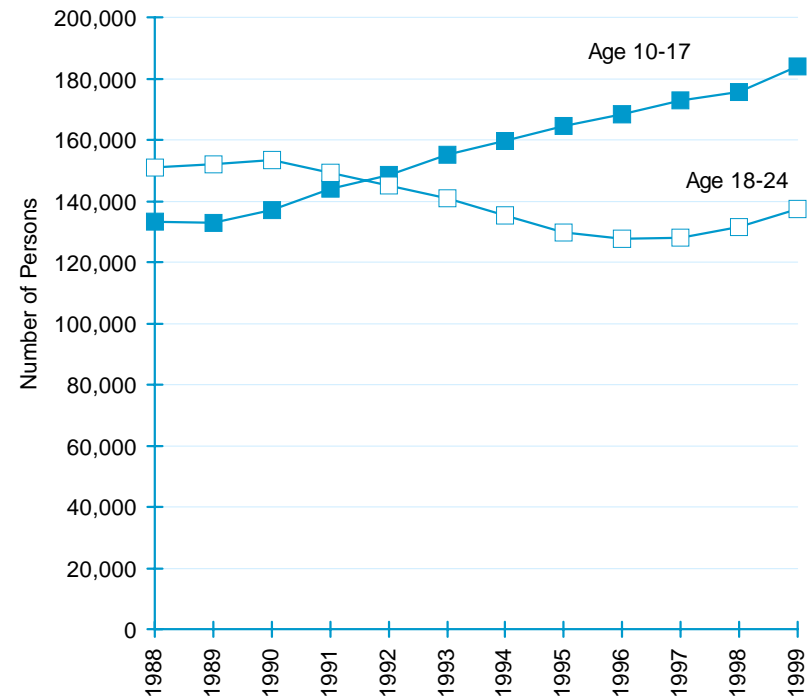
Population Trends

Is the number of youth increasing?

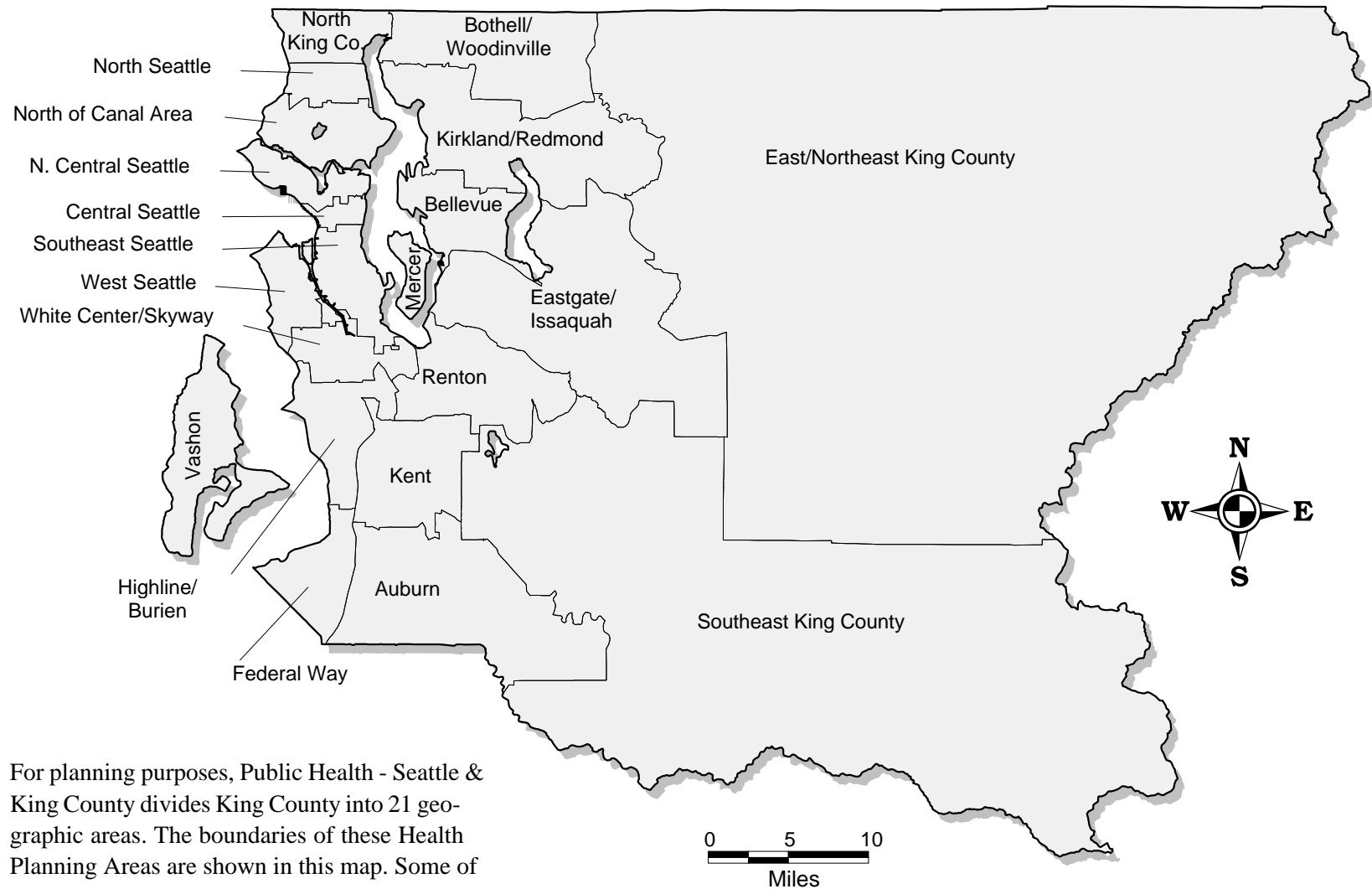
From 1988 to 1999, the number of youth in King County increased by 38%, from 133,000 to 184,000. The number of young adults, however, decreased by 9% during this time period from 151,000 to 138,000.

*Source: Department of Social and Health Services, Washington State
Adjusted Population Estimates, June 1997 and April 1999.*

Population Growth Trend
Of Youth Age 10-17 and Young Adults Age 18-24
King County, 1988-1999



Health Planning Area Map



For planning purposes, Public Health - Seattle & King County divides King County into 21 geographic areas. The boundaries of these Health Planning Areas are shown in this map. Some of the data on youth presented in this report are broken down into Health Planning Areas.

Geographic Distribution

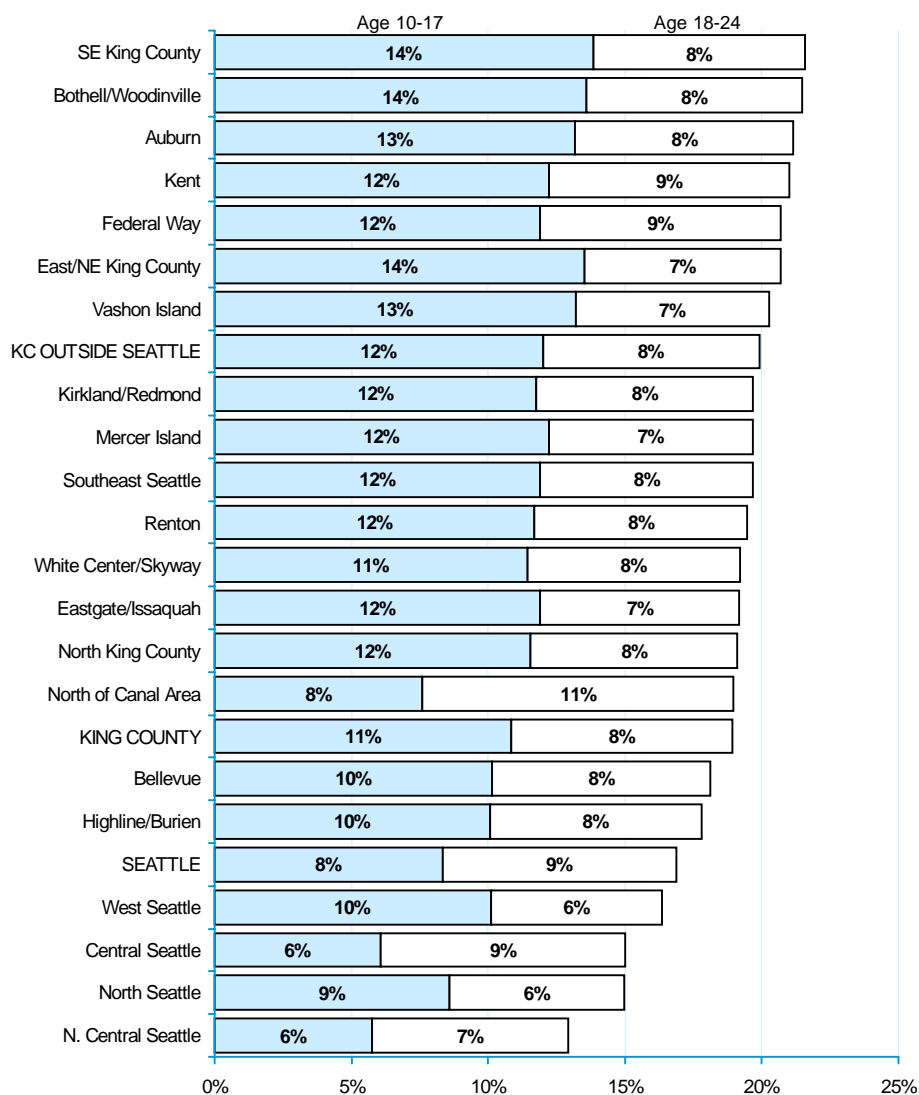
What areas of King County have the highest proportion of youth and young adults?

In the Southeast King County and Bothell/Woodinville areas, about 22% of the total population was from 10-24 years of age in 1999. The North Central Seattle, North Seattle, and Central Seattle areas had the lowest proportions of youth in their populations.

Data Notes: Percentages printed on the bars are rounded to the nearest whole percent, whereas the length of the bars reflects additional tenths of a percent.

Source: Department of Social and Health Services, Washington State Adjusted Population Estimates, April, 1999.

Percent of Population Age 10-17 and 18-24
In Each Health Planning Area, King County, 1999



Race and Ethnicity

What is the race and ethnicity of King County's youth?

In 1999, the racial composition of King County youth age 10-17 years was 76% white, 12% Asian, 7% African American, and 2% American Indian. For young adults, the percentages were 76% white, 14% Asian, 7% African American, and 2% American Indian.

Nearly 5% of King County's total population of youth and young adults were of Hispanic origin.

Data Notes: The Census classified Hispanics as an ethnic group rather than a racial group, and so counted them separately. Persons of Hispanic origin could be of any race. Due to rounding, the percentages may not total 100%.

Source: Department of Social and Health Services, Washington State Adjusted Population Estimates, April 1999.

Number and Percent of Youth Age 10-17 And Young Adults Age 18-24 By Race and Ethnicity, King County, 1999

	King County		Seattle		King County Outside Seattle	
<i>Race and Age</i>	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total
White						
10 to 17	144,532	76.2%	27,125	58.0%	117,407	82.2%
18 to 24	105,172	75.6%	29,396	62.8%	75,776	82.2%
African American						
10 to 17	13,647	7.2%	8,232	17.6%	5,415	3.8%
18 to 24	10,254	7.4%	6,268	13.4%	3,986	4.3%
American Indian						
10 to 17	2,760	1.5%	1,015	2.2%	1,745	1.2%
18 to 24	2,437	1.8%	996	2.1%	1,441	1.6%
Asian						
10 to 17	23,089	12.2%	8,879	19.0%	14,210	10.0%
18 to 24	19,640	14.1%	9,623	20.5%	10,017	10.9%
TOTAL						
10 to 17	189,599	100.0%	46,793	100.0%	142,806	100.0%
18 to 24	139,076	100.0%	46,842	100.0%	92,234	100.0%
Total Not of Hispanic Origin						
10 to 17	179,896	94.9%	43,666	93.3%	136,230	95.4%
18 to 24	132,255	95.1%	44,272	94.5%	87,983	95.4%
Total of Hispanic Origin						
10 to 17	9,703	5.1%	3,127	6.7%	6,576	4.6%
18 to 24	6,821	4.9%	2,570	5.5%	4,251	4.6%

Income

Which racial/ethnic groups experience more poverty?

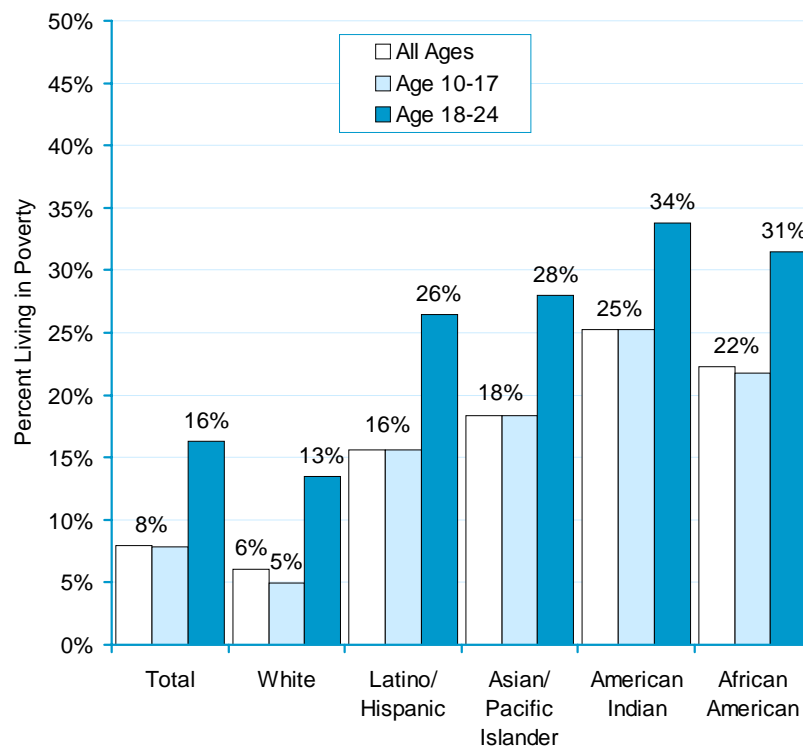
In 1989, American Indians and African Americans experienced more poverty than other groups in King County. As a group, Whites experienced the least poverty.

Data Notes: These data include the total population, adults as well as youth and young adults. “Poverty” describes persons in households whose incomes are below a certain dollar level or “threshold” which is adjusted each year. The poverty threshold in 1989 for a family of four was \$12,674, and for a single person over age 65, \$5,947. This threshold is often referred to as the Federal Poverty Level.

The Census classifies Latino or Hispanic as an ethnic group, rather than a racial group. A person who is Latino or of Hispanic origin, therefore, may be of any race.

Source: 1990 U.S. Census, and U.S. Census Bureau at: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe95/school.html>

Percent of King County Population Living in Poverty
By Age and Race/Ethnicity, 1995



Family Income

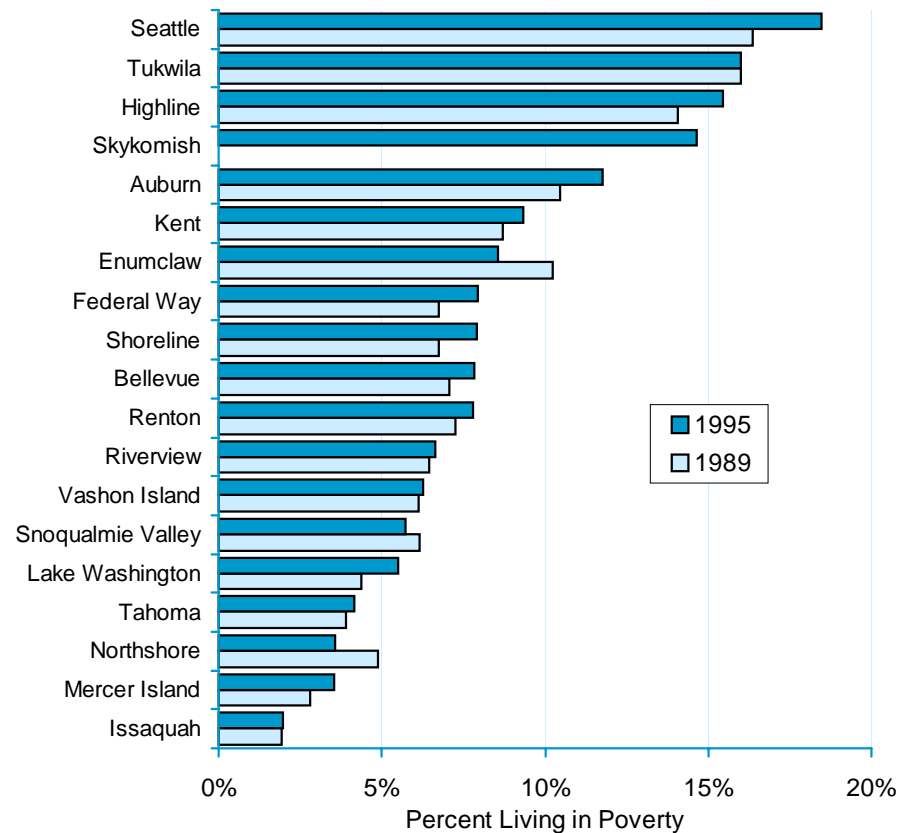
How many school-age children and youth age 5-17 years live in homes with an income below poverty?

In 1995, nearly one in five school-age children and youth attending schools in the Seattle School District lived in households with incomes less than the poverty level. Issaquah and Mercer Island School Districts had the lowest percentages of students living in poverty.

Data Notes: "Poverty" describes persons in households whose incomes are below a certain dollar level or "threshold" which is adjusted each year. This threshold is often referred to as the Federal Poverty Level. The poverty threshold in 1989 for a family of four was \$12,674, and for a single person over age 65, \$5,947. In 1995 the threshold for a family of four was \$15,569, and for a single person over age 65, \$7,309.

For Skykomish in 1989, the rate is not shown because of small sample size and is not considered reliable.

Percent of School-Age Children and Youth Living in Households With an Income Below the Poverty Level, By School District
King County, 1989 and 1995



Source: 1990 U.S. Census, and U.S. Census Bureau at:
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe95/school.html>

Homelessness

How many youth are homeless and why?

Experts estimate that 800 youth ages 12-24 are homeless in Seattle, and up to 2000 county wide, on any given night. There is no way of accurately counting the number of youth who are homeless, so estimates are based on the following information:

- 2,224 runaway reports were made to Seattle Police in 1998.
- 768 youth under age 18 were served in King County licensed shelters in 1998.
- 566 youth not part of a family were served by Health Care for the Homeless in 1998. They were seen by health care providers a total of 2,014 times.
- 336 youth were counted by the King County Task Force during a one week homeless youth survey in 1994.
- 497 homeless youth were served by PRO Youth outreach workers in King County in 1998.

The information on the right was taken from a 1997 study on homeless youth in Seattle.

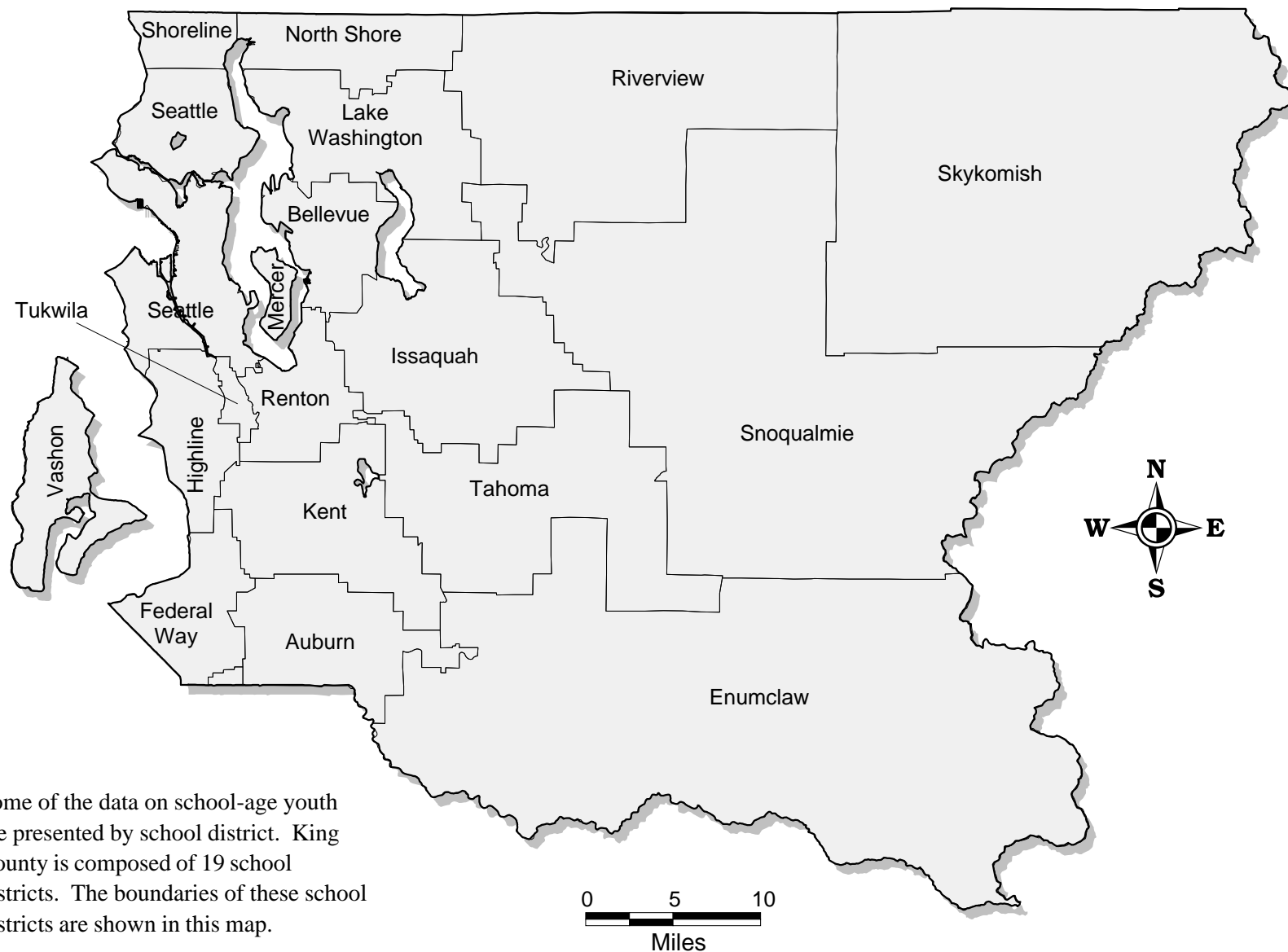
FINDINGS

- The decision to leave home was made by the youth in 33% of all cases. The decision for the youth to leave home was made by the youth’s parents or equivalent in 35% of the cases. And in 19% of the cases youth were removed from their family and placed into protective custody.
- Youth cited the following reasons for being homeless:

Physical abuse	21%
Violence at home	19%
Drug use by a family member	12%
Neglect	12%
Not getting along with family	12%
Conflict with a “step parent”	9%
Youth’s behavior problems	9%
Sexual Abuse	7%
Family poverty	7%
- 85% of youth reported at least one family member having an alcohol or drug problem.
- 65% of youth indicated that at least one person in their family had a history in the criminal justice system.
- 31% of youth reported having at least one foster placement, beginning at the median age of 12 years.
- 10% reported more than 4 foster placements.

Source: Cause, A.M et al. 1997. Homeless Youth in Seattle: Youth Characteristics Mental Health Needs and Case Management.

School District Map



Public School Enrollment

Where do our children and youth go to school?

In 1998-1999, the six largest school districts in terms of enrollment were Seattle, Kent, Lake Washington, Federal Way, Northshore, and Highline. More than 60% of King County's 249,769 public school students kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) attended school in one of these six districts.

Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Puget Sound, ESD Report 1251.

Public School Enrollment by School District and Level
King County, 1998-1999

	Grades K-6	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12	Grades K-12 (total)	Percent of County Enrollment
King County Total	136,549	38,325	74,895	249,769	100%
<i>School District</i>					
Auburn	6,799	1,898	4,198	12,895	5%
Bellevue	7,770	2,331	5,325	15,426	6%
Enumclaw	2,805	884	1,565	5,254	2%
Federal Way	12,307	3,332	6,105	21,744	9%
Highline	10,064	2,816	5,891	18,771	8%
Issaquah	7,503	2,035	3,759	13,297	5%
Kent	14,435	4,047	7,421	25,903	10%
Lake Washington	12,799	3,895	7,730	24,424	10%
Mercer Island	2,160	682	1,303	4,145	2%
Northshore	10,563	3,296	6,321	20,180	8%
Renton	7,032	1,882	3,618	12,532	5%
Riverview	1,677	475	858	3,010	1%
Seattle	27,414	6,730	13,256	47,400	19%
Shoreline	5,292	1,648	3,291	10,231	4%
Skykomish	52	14	26	92	<1%
Snoqualmie Valley	2,367	746	1,296	4,409	2%
Tahoma	2,316	910	1,603	5,879	2%
Tukwila	1,414	402	733	2,549	1%
Vashon Island	838	283	507	1,628	<1%

Language and Meals Assistance

How many students may need special assistance with language and with meals?

Over the past five years, many school districts have increasing numbers of students who enroll in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, or need free or reduced cost lunches. In 1998-1999, the school districts which had over 5% of students enrolled in ESL programs were Tukwila, Seattle, Bellevue, Kent, Federal Way and Highline. The school districts which had over 25% of students who were eligible for free and reduced meals were Tukwila, Seattle, Highline, Skykomish, Auburn, Renton, and Federal Way.

Data Notes: A student who was eligible for ESL assistance met the following two conditions: the primary language of the student was other than English and the student's English skills were sufficiently deficient or absent to impair learning. Free/reduced meals are available according to U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Nutrition Program Guidelines. A student in a family of four with an annual income less than \$21,710 qualifies for free school meals. Students in a family with a yearly income less than \$30,895 qualify for reduced-price meals.

Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Puget Sound ESD Report 1251 and Public School Free and Reduced Meals Applications. October 1998.

Public School Enrollment:
English as Second Language (ESL) and Free/Reduced Meals
By School District, King County, 1993-1994 and 1998-1999

	Percent Enrolled in ESL		Percent Applying for Free/Reduced Meals	
	1993-1994	1998-1999	1993-1994	1998-1999
King County Total	5%	6%	22%	24%
<i>School District</i>				
Auburn	1%	3%	22%	32%
Bellevue	7%	8%	15%	15%
Enumclaw	<1%	1%	15%	15%
Federal Way	4%	6%	20%	26%
Highline	5%	6%	33%	41%
Issaquah	<1%	1%	6%	5%
Kent	5%	7%	20%	24%
Lake Washington	<1%	4%	9%	9%
Mercer Island	2%	2%	2%	2%
Northshore	1%	1%	7%	7%
Renton	2%	4%	24%	29%
Riverview	1%	1%	14%	12%
Seattle	13%	12%	43%	45%
Shoreline	3%	4%	15%	14%
Skykomish	<1%	0%	52%	39%
Snoqualmie Valley	<1%	1%	16%	13%
Tahoma	<1%	1%	11%	9%
Tukwila	9%	21%	45%	59%
Vashon Island	<1%	1%	9%	9%

Academic Achievement

How are our children performing on the state's new standard-based achievement tests?

Many youth who do not perform well on middle and high school academic achievement tests also did not do well several years earlier. By noting test scores of elementary age students, we may have a “system marker” of students who need special attention before they enter middle or high school. This table gives 1998 results of public school 4th graders who were tested against the standards recently established for Washington State students by the Commission on Student Learning.

Most, but not all, King County school districts had a higher percentage of students meeting the standard set for math, reading, writing, and listening than the percentage for Washington State as a whole.

Data Notes: Results are not reported for fewer than 10 students tested.

Source: Washington Assessment of Standard Learning WASL/4). Spring 1998.

Percent of 4th Grade Public School Students Who Met State Standards, By School District, King County, 1998

	Math	Reading	Writing	Listening
Washington State Total	31	56	37	71
<i>School District</i>				
Auburn	34	58	31	75
Bellevue	44	68	52	78
Enumclaw	35	63	38	74
Federal Way	31	55	42	72
Highline	25	43	33	62
Issaquah	51	76	63	83
Kent	27	53	36	71
Lake Washington	47	75	50	82
Mercer Island	66	87	55	89
Northshore	50	76	49	83
Renton	35	58	41	73
Riverview	42	70	58	78
Seattle	36	53	40	69
Shoreline	53	73	45	81
Skykomish				
Snoqualmie Valley	46	75	43	85
Tahoma	44	69	48	82
Tukwila	22	47	28	64
Vashon Island	46	70	43	76

Academic Achievement

How are our 8th grade public school students performing on norm-referenced achievement tests?

Student achievement scores reflect basic levels of learning attainment. While reported here by school district, test scores typically reflect a number of different variables: parents' values and socioeconomic position, school district resources and strengths, and individual student learning.

This table displays how 8th grade students in each King County public school district performed on reading and math achievement tests in 1993 and 1997.

Data Notes: Results are not reported for fewer than 10 students tested. The **mean percentile score** is the average of all students' scores converted to a national percentile equivalent. To make comparisons, note that the mean percentile score for the national norm group is always 50. For example, Washington's mean national percentile score in 8th grade reading was 54 which means that 4 percent of Washington students had scores higher than the average student's score in the norm group. Similarly, a school district mean percentile score of 60 means that the average student's score in that district is higher by 10 percentile points than the average student's score in the national norm group. The higher the number, the better our students scored relative to the national norm group.

Source: Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills, 4th Edition (CTBS/4), Washington State Assessment Program, OSPI. June 30, 1997.

Reading and Math Achievement Test Results For Grade 8
By School District, King County, 1993 & 1997

	Reading		Math	
	Mean Percentile Score		Mean Percentile Score	
	1993	1997	1993	1997
Washington State Total	57	54	52	54
<i>School District</i>				
Auburn	56	55	55	61
Bellevue	68	65	71	71
Enumclaw	59	55	64	64
Federal Way	55	56	56	63
Highline	49	46	47	53
Issaquah	65	69	62	70
Kent	57	56	58	59
Lake Washington	69	68	65	67
Mercer Island	78	80	80	80
Northshore	69	69	65	70
Renton	56	49	62	55
Riverview	63	67	56	69
Seattle	52	49	49	51
Shoreline	68	66	56	60
Skykomish	(n < 10)	(n < 10)	(n < 10)	(n < 10)
Snoqualmie Valley	55	57	49	54
Tahoma	66	60	63	52
Tukwila	47	42	34	39
Vashon Island	74	73	59	65

Academic Achievement

How are our 11th grade public school students performing on norm-referenced achievement tests?

Student achievement scores reflect basic levels of learning attainment. While reported here by school district, test scores typically reflect a number of different variables: parents' values and socioeconomic position, school district resources and strengths, and individual student learning.

This table displays how 11th grade public school students in each of the King County school districts performed on reading and math achievement tests in 1993 and 1997.

Data Notes: Results are not reported for fewer than 10 students tested. The mean percentile score is the average of all students' scores converted to a Washington state percentile equivalent based on the performance of the 11th grade students participating in the fall 1991 assessment. To make comparisons, note that the mean percentile score for the state norm group is always 50. For example, Washington's 1997 mean percentile score in 11th grade language was 50 which means that students had scores very close to the 1991 average student's score in the norm group. A school district mean percentile score of 60 means that the average student's score in that district is higher by 10 percentile points than the average student's score in Washington state norm group. The higher the number, the better our students scored relative to the state norm group.

English Language and Math Achievement Test Results
For Grade 11, By School District, King County, 1993 & 1997

	English Language		Math	
	Mean Percentile Score		Mean Percentile Score	
	1993	1997	1993	1997
Washington State Total	49	50	50	53
<i>School District</i>				
Auburn	46	47	44	49
Bellevue	62	58	64	65
Enumclaw	50	53	45	56
Federal Way	41	49	49	60
Highline	45	46	45	53
Issaquah	57	54	63	65
Kent	50	51	53	54
Lake Washington	58	62	59	65
Mercer Island	66	75	71	**
Northshore	57	58	58	61
Renton	42	49	44	55
Riverview	64	56	51	48
Seattle	44	45	44	47
Shoreline	57	57	59	58
Skykomish	(n < 10)	(n < 10)	(n < 10)	(n < 10)
Snoqualmie Valley	48	53	55	58
Tahoma	60	57	56	55
Tukwila	35	29	38	32
Vashon Island	61	68	55	62

School Drop-Out

What percent of public high school students drop out each year?

A new tracking system was implemented in the Washington State public schools in 1994. It is difficult to know if fewer students are dropping out of high school in 1996 than in 1994, because of the high percentage in some districts of students whose status is unknown.

Data Notes: Results are not reported for fewer than 10 students tested. A **drop-out** is defined as a student who left school for any reason, except death, before graduation or completion of a program of studies and did not transfer to another school. An individual is considered a drop-out whether dropping out occurred during or between regular school terms. If a student's status is not clear to school officials, he/she is classified as "unknown."

Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Information Services Report 1257.

"If you don't respect kids... that's where they first learn about themselves -- through the parents. You can't tell a child that she's stupid, and then expect her to get a good report card, because she is a product of what her parents make her."

(High school female quoted in *Supporting Youth*)

Percent High School Enrollment Dropping Out During Year
By School District, King County, 1994-1997

	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997
King County Total	4% (5% unknown)	3% (4% unknown)	3% (4% unknown)
<i>School District</i>			
Auburn	6% (3%)	6% (2%)	7% (1%)
Bellevue	4% (8%)	3% (6%)	3% (6%)
Enumclaw	3% (<1%)	4% (<1%)	3% (1%)
Federal Way	7% (2%)	7% (3%)	4% (4%)
Highline	8% (5%)	5% (3%)	5% (5%)
Issaquah	2% (5%)	2% (4%)	2% (1%)
Kent	4% (0%)	4% (0%)	5% (2%)
Lake Washington	3% (2%)	2% (1%)	2% (1%)
Mercer Island	<1% (<1%)	<1% (<1%)	1% (0%)
Northshore	2% (<1%)	1% (<1%)	1% (1%)
Renton	5% (3%)	4% (3%)	3% (3%)
Riverview	<1% (4%)	<1% (3%)	<1% (2%)
Seattle	2% (12%)	1% (12%)	3% (10%)
Shoreline	5% (<1%)	4% (2%)	4% (5%)
Skykomish	(n < 10)	(n < 10)	(n < 10)
Snoqualmie Valley	3% (4%)	4% (6%)	4% (3%)
Tahoma	2% (2%)	2% (1%)	2% (2%)
Tukwila	3% (24%)	2% (3%)	3% (3%)
Vashon Island	4% (1%)	2% (3%)	5% (3%)